

DRAFT Minutes
Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee
and
CALFED BDPAC Delta Levee Subcommittee
Friday, November 15, 2002
Room 435, Resources Building

1. Welcome/Self Introductions/Announcements

Called to order at 9:15 a.m. by the Chair, Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Game. See attached list of attendees. Bob noted that today's agenda indicated that the meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Future meetings would be scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; no objections were raised. A request was made to have future meetings in this meeting room (435 of the Resources Building.)

2. Minutes of October 4, 2002 meeting.

Correction of one typographical error; otherwise, there were no changes.

3. Update on CALFED Levee Program (SB 34/AB 360) Activities/Reuse of Dredged Materials

Paul Bowers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stated that the members of this group were sent copies of the work plan, and that no comments on it have been received. There is still an opportunity to submit comments. Dave Mraz will get copies of the work plan out to those who requested to receive it.

The Corps, DFG, and DWR are working to revive a stalled habitat project on DFG-owned Rhode Island under Section 206. The project was originated by the Department of Fish and Game.

The monthly report on the Subventions Program was distributed. The report provides an update on status of the payment under the Subvention Program and highlights outstanding issues. A copy of the report is attached.

A draft-spending plan for Subventions funds that was made available by the passage of Proposition 50 in the recent election was distributed. It includes a proposal to use some of the funds to pay program expense from FY 01-02, with the remainder spread out over the following five years. Dave requested input from the Committee; discussion followed.

Outcome of the discussion included:

- A. Reclamation Districts are struggling financially due to poor reimbursement of levee maintenance expense, escalating maintenance cost and declining farm income.
- B. Reclamation Districts find it difficult to pay maintenance cost in reliance on state promises of reimbursement because of their current poor fiscal condition and the poor reimbursement rates from the current and previous year.
- C. Increasing the state cost share to 75% of all Subventions categories in FY 2001-02 and FY 2002-03 will significantly improve RD fiscal condition and provide cash flow for funding FY 2003-04 maintenance.
- D. The Delta Levee and Habitat Advisory Counsel supports use of prop 50 funds to restore the State cost share in FY 2001-02 and FY 2002-03.

In additional discussion of funding, the status of CALFED Program balance was raised. The DLHAC believes the CALFED program is out of balance and requested that DWR work with other CALFED elements to bring additional funding to the Levee Program.

The proposed CALFED Science tax was discussed.

The Committee requested a presentation of Special Projects selection procedures at the next meeting.

4. CALFED BDPAC Levees Subcommittee Chairman's Report

Tom Zuckerman reported on a discussion that took place at the BDPAC Steering Committee meeting on the importance minimizing "Turf Warfare" among the various agencies, and maximizing results. The Steering Committee also recognizes the concept that the various CALFED Programs are interconnected. Gaps and actual funding vs. target funding were highlighted. One area of concern is an element of the Emergency Response Plan that has not been funded. Some proposition 50 "Water Security" funds maybe available for this.

The Steering Committee has asked the Attorney General's Office for help in interpreting how to participate in the legislative funding process; a report is expected at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. An agency coordination team is working to maintain openness and transparency in the process. Tom also noted that federal legislation to reauthorize CALFED did not make it out of congress this session.

Margit Aramburu passed out copies BDPAC's Memos of accomplishments to CALFED staff for the CALFED's annual report and asked the group for input. Some adjustments were made in the course of discussions with regards to the passage of Proposition 50. Discussion followed on recommending that funding balance for the Delta Levee Program be a goal for next year. The group agreed that Marci Coglianese and Tom Zuckerman along with Margit will fine tune the wording.

5. Update on SB 34/AB 360 Program-Department of Fish & Game

Bob Orcutt reported that fifteen final claims inspections have been done, along with eleven special project work agreements.

6. Year 3 Work Plan

Dave Mraz will distribute the plan to those requesting it.

7. Delta Seismicity

Bill Burkhard of DWR's Bay-Delta Office shared a presentation of how peat performs during seismic activity, based on data collected from an earthquake on September 29 that caused a slip on a small island in Discovery Bay. Chris Neudeck of Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck pointed out that this is the first recorded data on a fault in the Delta. Margit suggested that the experts on the "blue ribbon committee" should revisit this data and other seismic issues.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

The next meeting will take place on January 3, 2003, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Room 435. Subsequent meetings will take place on the first Friday of every month.